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Construction workers face drug tests

Policy set for suspicion of drinking, getting high on job

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

Unionized construction workers in B.C. suspected of drinking or doing drugs on the job will now be subject to testing.

The new policy, which comes from an agreement between employers and unions, will affect those who have caused workplace accidents or near-misses and are suspected to have been under the influence after an investigation.

Employers can also require workers to be tested before entering a site, or if they have reasonable suspicion.

Random drug testing is prohibited in B.C. under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Pipe layer Greg Villeneuve of GPM Fire Protection Ltd. supports the new policy.

"I've heard stories of people getting high on the job and taking hours away from the job," he said. "If you've caused an accident then, for sure, you should be tested."

Clyde Scollan, president of the Construction Labour Relations Association, which represents unionized B.C. contractors, said the policy is a precautionary measure.

"The information that we have from other jurisdictions is that after the implementation of a testing policy, the accident rates do go down," he said.

The tests will cover alcohol and nine types of drugs, including marijuana and cocaine. Workers will need approval from a doctor to return, as well as agree to further treatment and testing.

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

No jail in baby drowning

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

The Surrey woman who pleaded guilty to drowning her baby six years ago will not serve any time in jail.

Instead, a judge in Surrey Provincial Court gave Jaswinder Kang, 43, a two-year conditional sentence to be served at home and three years probation.

In May 2002, Kang's four-month-old son Jasvir Singh Kang was found face down in a backyard pool. He died weeks later at Children's Hospital.

At the time, Kang said the baby was snatched by a panhandler but five years later confessed to the murder.

Judge Kenneth Ball said yesterday that he believes Kang was suffering from a mental disorder that stemmed from giving birth.

Gold Jumpers

JUHAN HERBERT/GETTY IMAGES

Eric Lamaze of Canada and Hickstead compete yesterday at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, taking gold after two jump-offs. More coverage pages 13, 14.

Canada pg 6

B.C. soldier, 3 others dead

Movies pg 16

How funny is Bunny?

Oilers captain passenger in hit-and-run

INVESTIGATION Vancouver police are investigating a hit-and-run involving the captain of the Edmonton Oilers hockey team.

Const. Jana McGuinness said that just after midnight on Aug. 14, police received a call about a car backing over a parked motorcycle outside Joey's restaurant on Burrard Street and taking off.

Ethan Moreau

She said it was too early to name people involved, but Allan Watt, vice president of communication for the Oilers, confirmed to media that Ethan Moreau was a passenger in the car.

Nathan Dery, the owner of the motorcycle and a bartender at Joey's, told CBC that he served Moreau's party that night. Over the course of 51 minutes, the party of five ordered three rounds consisting of eight doubles, two singles and five shooters.

Dery said they then got into a Toyota 4Runner, backed it into his motorcycle, knocked it into another car, and set off two alarms before speeding off.

"We investigate that right from the outset as a hit-and-run because you're required by law to remain at the scene of an accident and share your information," said McGuinness.

According to the CBC, both Dery and the Oilers announced that the driver had come forward, that he is not an Oiler and that he is going to pay for damages, but McGuinness said it is now a police matter.

Calls to Watt were not returned by deadline.

ANDREA WOO/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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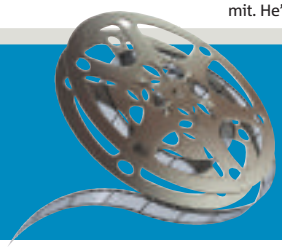
Former N.Y. mayor to speak at Surrey economic summit
Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani will be in the Lower Mainland on Sept. 18 to take part in the Surrey Regional Economic Summit. He'll be joined by VANOC CEO John Furlong and Premier Gordon Campbell. METRO VANCOUVER

Local



Enviro films highlight festival

This year's Vancouver International Film Festival will feature a special environmentally-themed program, according to a partial lineup released yesterday. The event, which starts on Sept. 25, will screen 350 films, about one-third of them documentaries. METRO VANCOUVER

Police warn of violent purse thefts

Same suspect in 7 cases

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

Vancouver police are warning women that a series of recent purse snatchings, which have targeted older victims, are becoming increasingly violent.

Around 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, a 52-year-old woman was walking along East Georgia Street when she was pushed from behind and had her purse stolen, Const. Jana McGuiness said yesterday.

"She suffered injuries to her left side and hit her face as she fell," said McGuiness.

A 51-year-old woman who was robbed on Sunday on Penticton Street was also pushed, but police said she was unharmed.

There have been seven purse snatchings since Aug. 4, and McGuiness said police believe the same suspect is responsible for all seven robberies.

She added that for the first time, police have the description of the suspect's vehicle, a light blue car, possibly a sedan.

Supt. Rob Rothwell, in charge of investigations for the VPD, said the robberies have happened in secluded and quiet areas, so finding witnesses has been challenging."

"There are some crimes that even criminals find reprehensible," he said. "Attacks against the elderly are such a crime."

Safety tips

- Rothwell said women should be vigilant about their surroundings, avoid secluded lanes and walk with a friend whenever possible.

PNE Sand and rock sculpture

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Delayne Corbett, right, and David Billings work on a sand sculpture of Led Zeppelin at the PNE yesterday. The fair's 4th annual International Sand Sculpture Competition runs until Sunday.

VANOC hopes to one-up China

IMPROVEMENTS The Summer Olympics in China have been nearly perfect. But Vancouver 2010 Olympic organizers feel they can do better in key areas.

At a 2010 Games press conference, John Furlong, chief executive officer of the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC), said he'd like to "create additional magic in some of the venues" and create "a festive, exciting warm ... atmosphere for the athletes."

Chinese organizers have been criticized about empty seats. VANOC officials said they're planning ticket exchange and return programs to get spare tickets into the hands of the public.

Furlong also touched on creating an intimate atmosphere with nightly celebrations for local residents.

But he conceded traffic management and the flow of people in and around Olympic sites will be a challenge.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Missing teen's family gathers after body found

UNIDENTIFIED The family of a teenager who went missing while swimming in the Fraser River last week gathered at the scene where a decomposed body was discovered yesterday morning.

Harnake "Nick" Olak, 17, was swimming with a friend near a dock at the south end of Riverport Way last Thursday when they began struggling in the current. He pushed his friend to shore, but did not make it himself.

Harnake Olak

Richmond RCMP said they would not be able to identify the body until today, but Olak's family tearfully thanked family, friends and police at the intersection of No. 5 and Dyke roads, where the body was found. It was partially submerged in water.

ANDREA WOO/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Read more from our Urban Foodie Anya Levykh and Marty York's CFL Report, featuring Montreal Alouette Avon Cobourne

Watch a biologist's explanation of the bacteria behind the recent food poisoning outbreak, and a report on the latest BlackBerry device to hit store shelves

News in brief

'CRIME CAMP' Police broke up a "crime camp" made to look like a homeless camp in Port Coquitlam yesterday. RCMP said the site, removed from street traffic, was set up to conduct drug and property crime.

SENTENCE A man called a prolific, unrelenting career criminal by West Vancouver Police has been sentenced to eight months in jail after his latest arrest, Cpl. Fred Harding said yesterday. Dean McArthur Durnie has been convicted of theft 38 times since 1995.

COURT The Surrey man charged in the murder of his wife and attempted murder of his daughter following Tuesday's shooting has been identified as Harpaljit "Paul" Sandhu, 53.

EAT! Laura Calder, host of French Food At Home, will headline the Food Network Celebrity Stage at the EAT! Fraser Valley at the Tradex in Abbotsford on Sept. 12 to 14. She'll be joined by Bob Blumer, host of Glutton For Punishment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Nexus lane hours extended
The hours of service of the Nexus lanes at the Pacific Highway crossing have been expanded in response to increased traffic congestion caused by construction at the Peace Arch border crossing. They are now open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week. METRO VANCOUVER

Don't take seals home

Public learns about marine life at Rescue Centre open house

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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If you find a seal pup alone on a Vancouver beach, don't take it home and put it in your bathtub.

Vancouver Aquarium vet Marty Haulen said about 30 per cent of the seal pups that come to the aquarium's Marine Mammal Rescue Centre are brought in by well-meaning people who find the animals and think they are sick or abandoned.

Haulen, who was speaking at the centre's annual open house yesterday, said often the seal mothers are merely out foraging for food.

Visitors at the open house had a rare chance to tour the facility and meet the staff that treat and care for the centre's sick, injured or abandoned animals, all of which happen to be harbour seals right now.

"Our main function is to respond to stranded marine mammals up and down the coast of British Columbia," said Haulen. "We respond to the public's phone calls, we don't go out (looking for them)."

He said the main goal is to rehabilitate the animals and release them back into the wild.

"There's a whole bigger picture, though," Haulen said. "Everyone of these animals is a neat opportunity to gain some insight into them (and) their environment."

program facts

- The rescue program admitted more than 150 animals last year.
- It has treated whales, sea otters, sea lions, dolphins, porpoises and elephant seals.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Jasmine Collins, 9, takes a peak at a seal pup at the Vancouver Aquarium's Marine Mammal Rescue Centre's open house yesterday.

Penticton Ironman competitor has heart

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

HEALTH Don't question Dwight Kroening's heart.

At 49, Kroening, of Edmonton, will be among more than 2,500 athletes taking part in one of the most arduous tests of human endurance: this weekend's Penticton Ironman Triathlon.

The combined 3.8-kilometre swim, 180-kilometre bike race and 42.2-kilometre run winds through the sun-kissed, pine- and sage-brush-dotted hills under the (usually) blistering sun of the Southern Okanagan.

> **"They told me I had a death certificate, and this was the date."**
> Dwight Kroening

Of those racing, Kroening will be the only one with a transplanted heart.

"I've done three Olympic (distance) and two half Ironmans," said Kroening. "I figured I'm not getting any younger. I'm just getting older. I better get this done before I can't do it."

In 1986, Kroening, was working in Phoenix when he was diagnosed with a terminal heart disease, the result of a viral infection from bronchitis years earlier.

Kroening's heart had enlarged to twice its size and fluid had built up in his lungs and left him unable to do the simplest of tasks, like brushing his hair or teeth.

"They told me I had a death certificate, and this was the date," Kroening said. "I'd never experienced a state of total hopelessness … there was no options, no alternatives."

About a week later, the doctors came back, offering a slim chance: a heart transplant

Kroening almost balked. The cost alone was $250,000 and to him, a heart transplant was science fiction, "like something out of an Orson Wells' novel." He was scared of living the rest of his life a vegetable or as a burden to his wife.

Cardiologists introduced him to a number of successful heart transplant recipients, including one man who was participating in short-distance sprint triathlons.

Kroening was convinced.

And 22 years later, he's still pumping, proving he's got the heart.

RCMP search for alleged offender

HIGH RISK Richmond RCMP are looking for a man charged with assaulting his girlfriend who skipped court this week.

David Singh Grewal is at a high risk to re-offend, Cpl. Nycki Basra said in a release yesterday.

The 24-year-old was originally arrested for hitting his girlfriend, then shortly after his release, he broke a court order not to have contact with her and allegedly assaulted her again, this time with a weapon.

David Singh Grewal

Basra asks that anyone who knows of Grewal's whereabouts to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

METRO VANCOUVER

NDP MLAs push safety plan while riding the SkyTrain

TRANSIT A number of NDP MLAs took to the SkyTrain yesterday to gather signatures for a proposed plan to improve transit safety.

So far, they have collected hundreds of signatures that will be presented at the B.C. legislature in the fall.

Adrian Dix (Vancouver-Kingsway) said they have also handed out thousands of copies of the NDP transportation safety plan to commuters.

"We want people to take public transit," he said. "It's our obligation as representatives to ensure that the system is safe."

Their 10-point plan includes requests for each station to have at least one security guard on site at all times, improved lighting at stations and a pilot "safe-walk" program for high-risk stations. ANDREA WOO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

letters

Compost waste, don't incinerate it

Re: "Leaders tour garbage incineration plant." Burning garbage is no solution to our waste problem. It just makes an excuse to keep consuming too much stuff. Civic leaders should be giving us good composting programs instead.

HELEN SPIEGELMAN, VIA E-MAIL

News in brief

TRANSLINK More than 200 people have applied for three positions on the TransLink board of directors, news1130.com reports. While successful candidates will be paid $25,000 per year, plus $1,200 per meeting, they'll be responsible for an $800-million budget.

SHOOTING Police yesterday identified the victim of a recent fatal shooting in Chilliwack. Michael Bradley Gordon, 33, was killed in a targeted shooting in front of a market on Promontory Road.

HEALTH B.C.'s ombudsman has launched an investigation into the quality of care for senior citizens in the province, CBC News Online reports. It was prompted by the more than 50 complaints Kim Carter's office received this summer about facilities and services.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Human remains found in home

SURREY Unidentified human remains were found in a Surrey home, police announced yesterday.

Officers made the discovery on Wednesday, but RCMP Cpl. Jack Hundial said police are working to identify the remains.

Hardev Bhullar, who lives near the home on 88th Avenue, told CBC News that three people lived in the house, and one of the residents hadn't been seen for about a month.

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McGill professor honoured by France

McGill University professor Mark Wainberg, a trailblazer in HIV/AIDS research, has been named a chevalier of France's Légion d'honneur. The order, established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, is the highest decoration in France. Chevalier ("knight") is the most common of its five grades. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Dion defends Green Shift

After receiving complaints that voters had not heard enough about Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion's Green Shift plan, Dion explained yesterday he needs the proper time to explain the plan to the public. With the potential for a fall election looming, Dion is facing increased pressure from within his own party to topple the Tory government and work towards selling the Green Shift. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Blast claims 3 in Afghanistan

B.C. soldier among Canadians killed by roadside bomb

Canadians soldiers are dying in Afghanistan while many NATO members are refusing to show up for the fight, retired Major-General Lewis MacKenzie said yesterday.

"It's a political failure," MacKenzie told Torstar, after three Canadian soldiers were killed and one seriously injured when their convoy hit an improvised explosive device on the main highway outside Kandahar City yesterday.

Sapper Stephan Stock of Campbell River, B.C., Sgt. Shawn Eades, and Cpl. Dustin Wasden were combat engineers with 12 Field Squadron, 1 Combat Engineer Regiment based out of Edmonton and attached to the Second Battalion Light Infantry Battle Group.

Their deaths raise to 93 the tally of Canadian soldiers killed since Canada sent troops to the war-torn region in 2002.

Three Polish soldiers also died yesterday when a roadside bomb exploded in the central province of Ghazni, and a Taliban force killed 10 French paratroopers in a mountain gorge Monday.

However, Canada's top soldier in Afghanistan said the military toll should not be seen as a sign the Taliban is gaining strength.

"What I would say is that they're much more aggressive this fighting season than they've been in the past," Brig.-Gen. Denis Thompson said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PHOTO HANDOUTS

Canadian Sgt. Shawn Eades, left, Cpl. Dustin Wasden and Sapper Stephan Stock, were on patrol in Kandahar when their convoy hit an improvised explosive device, killing all three.

War resister pleads guilty

DEPORTED The first American war resister deported from Canada will plead guilty to charges of desertion in a military court martial hearing today in Colorado and will likely be sentenced this afternoon, his lawyer said yesterday.

Robin Long

Robin Long, 25, lived in Canada for three years after he defected from the army in 2005 while fleeing a scheduled deployment to Iraq. He was deported July 15 following several failed attempts to earn refugee status or permanent residency in this country, and has since languished in a trio of American military and civilian prisons. The plea comes after his attorney reached a pre-trial agreement with military prosecutors last week.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

POLITICS Prime Minister Stephen Harper would be "misguided" if he chose to call a federal election before Parliament resumes sitting Sept. 15, NDP Leader Jack Layton said yesterday. Layton was campaigning in advance of next month's byelection in Quebec.

TASER Several police officers suffered minor injuries trying to arrest a man who allegedly punched a Winnipeg transit bus driver, fought with a passenger and scuffled with police, even after he had been subdued with a Taser. Jeremy Flett, 22, is facing charges.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Buzz follows Aldrin

Astronaut guest at comic book fan expo

Once, he walked on the moon.

This weekend he will walk among grown men and women dressed like Klingons, Jedi and cape-clad superheroes.

Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, the second man to set foot on Earth's only natural satellite, is a special guest at this weekend's Fan Expo — Toronto's annual comic book and science fiction convention.

He has written an account of his journey to the moon, produced video games on space exploration, patented a design for a space station, worked on designs for new spacecraft, lobbied congress for a reinvestment in NASA, punched a conspiracy theorist in the face, written a science fiction novel about aliens visiting our solar system and lent his voice to an animated movie.

"I don't know why it's so hard for the public to accept ... Why would there be such an obsession with the bizarre?"

Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin speaking about rumours he saw a UFO on his Apollo mission

"It's a very cute story," Aldrin, 78, said last week in a phone interview from his Los Angeles home, referring to his life in recent years and to the new film, Fly Me to the Moon, which tells the story of three bugs blasting to the moon onboard Apollo 11, for which Aldrin supplied his voice.

"It's a very complex but realistic story that deals with the vast distances between the stars and the great energy requirements (needed) to travel those distances," he says.

Aldrin has earned a reputation for the bizarre and is angered by accusations that he mistook floating panels for what he is alleged to have reported as a UFO on the moon mission.

"I don't know why it's so hard for the public to accept that we were looking at one of those four panels. Why would there be such an obsession with the bizarre?"

Aldrin has also become infamous in recent years for punching a man who accused him of being a liar and was lambasting the Apollo 11 mission as a hoax. He doesn't expect to meet any "Apollo Landing Deniers" in Toronto, but says he's ready if he does. "If they bother me, I might poke them in the face," he jokes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto **Teeterhouse**

AARON LYNETT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A tiny dwelling, which once belonged to beloved Canadian actor-comedian Billy Van, in a Toronto suburb now teeters over the bluffs. The cottage is one of the few original homes left along the embankment. The ground literally fell out from underneath the rest over the past three decades.

SIC challenges gag order

IMMIGRATION In a public showdown between immigration consultants and their regulators, an industry advocacy group is suing the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants challenging the gag order that it imposes on its members.

The lawsuit, filed this week by the 600-member Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants, came after its board members openly endorsed the sweeping changes recommended by a parliamentary committee in June.

On June 24, the regulator launched complaints against the association for allegedly breaching its code of ethics by drawing "discredit on the society and the profession."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

WINNIPEG ATTACK A Winnipeg mother said she did what any mother would do when she attacked a man with a pipe after he allegedly tried to abduct and sexually assault her 10-year-old daughter. Winnipeg police said they were called to the park to break up a fight and said they are considering laying charges against the mother and the man on separate counts. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Teens smoke because of movie influence
A National Cancer Institute report on smoking in the media has found tobacco promotion and depictions of smoking in movies cause teenagers to pick up the habit. The study found the tobacco industry spent more than $13 billion U.S. on advertising and promotions in 2005. REUTERS

World/Business

U.S. to Russia: Pull out 'now'

Impatience with slow withdrawal mounting in West

Russia said it would complete a pullback of troops in Georgia by the end of Friday, but it stopped short of the extensive withdrawal demanded by the West, saying it would keep a force deep inside Georgia's heartland.

Western states grew increasingly impatient that Russian troops remain inside Georgia nearly a week after a ceasefire ended a war that broke out when Tbilisi tried to retake its breakaway South Ossetia region.

"The withdrawal needs to take place and needs to take place now," a White House spokesman said, and accused Russia of breaking a promise to leave Georgia.

Moscow said it was honouring the French-brokered ceasefire agreement.

Russian defence officials said what they called reinforcement troops would be pulled back to within South Ossetia by the end of Friday and from there withdrawn to Russian soil within 10 days. Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili said he would not stand for that, adding that "we will never live with any buffer zones," he said.

Tbilisi says Moscow is trying to annex the region.

NATO this week suspended contacts with Russia in protest and Russian hit back by freezing some military cooperation with the alliance.

The World Bank said it was sending a mission to Georgia today to assess the economic damage caused by the fighting. The Bank would also set up a fund to help pay for Georgia's reconstruction. REUTERS

DENIS SINYAKOV/REUTERS

A girl stands with a priest during a rally in Tskhinvali yesterday, where South Ossetia's leader said he would ask the Kremlin to recognize its independence from Georgia.

McCain out of touch with average American, economy, Obama says

CHESTER, VA. Democrat Barack Obama attacked Republican John McCain yesterday for not knowing how many houses he owns and said it proves his presidential rival is out of touch with the economic struggles of most Americans.

Obama questioned the lifestyle of McCain. In an interview Wednesday with the Politico newspaper, McCain was asked how many houses he owns with his wife and heiress, Cindy.

"I think — I'll have my staff get to you," McCain replied. "It's condominiums where — I'll have them get to you." The Politico said McCain's staff counted "at least" four houses, although other media reported at least seven.

"I think — I'll have to get back to you."
John McCain on how many houses he owns

Obama noted McCain said last week that making $5 million U.S. was his definition of being rich, and that McCain said the economy was "fundamentally strong."

By making such statements, "it's not surprising that you might think the economy was fundamentally strong," Obama said.

"But if you're like me, and you've got one house, or you are like the millions of people who are struggling right now to keep up with their mortgage so they don't lose their home, you might have a different perspective," he added.

McCain's campaign pointed out that Obama's house Chicago's affluent neighbourhood Hyde Park is worth more than $1.5 million U.S. REUTERS

Republicans to crash Democrat party next week

DENVER When Democrats gather in Denver next week to nominate Barack Obama for president, they'll be joined by such uninvited guests as Republicans and former party nominees Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney.

The two former presidential candidates will be among two dozen or so Republicans in the city hoping to get their party's message out to the media during a week dominated by Democratic festivities.

Their slogan? Not Ready '08: A Mile High and an Inch Deep, a play on the nickname for the high-altitude city in the western United States.

Surrogates for Republican presidential candidate John McCain will set up shop within walking distance of the Democrats' convention hall, hoping to catch the attention of the 15,000 reporters gathered there.

"With all the hype of the actual convention and all the Obama fans gathered in one spot, we're going to get beyond the glitz and the celebrity and talk about the facts of his record," said Matt McDonald, a McCain staffer overseeing the effort. REUTERS

Pakistani suicide bombing kills at least 59

ISLAMABAD Two Pakistani Taliban suicide bombers blew themselves up outside the country's main defence industry complex yesterday, killing at least 59 people and wounding up to 81 people.

Workers were reportedly leaving at the end of their shift when the bombers struck. Hundreds were milling about outside the complex at the time.

Other sources put the death toll higher. State television quoted hospital officials as saying it had reached 71.

A Taliban spokesman said the blasts were retaliation for military operations against militants on the Afghan border. REUTERS

News in brief

FOOD The United States and some other developed countries throw away nearly a third of their food each year, according to a UN report. It says the U.S. throws away up to 30 per cent of its food, worth $48.3 billion.

IRAQ Although it contains no fixed date for United States troops to withdraw, Iraq and the U.S. have drafted an agreement that says Iraq would like combat troops out by 2011. Some patrols could end by the middle of next year.

PARIS France paid national tribute to 10 soldiers killed in Afghanistan yesterday and it had Defence Minister Herve Morin rethinking the consequences of the country's operations in Afghanistan. REUTERS

Business

Rising gas prices pump inflation to 5-year high

Soaring gasoline prices drove Canada's inflation rate in July to its highest in more than five years, but the upswing was widely expected and did little to change the view the central bank will keep interest rates on hold in September.

The annual inflation rate quickened to 3.4 per cent in July from 3.1 per cent in June, the highest rate since March 2003, Statistics Canada said yesterday.

But the core rate that is closely watched by the Bank of Canada stayed well within the bank's target at 1.5 per cent for the fourth straight month.

The consumer price index rose 0.3 per cent in the month, in line with market forecasts.

But there was little evidence that high energy prices were trickling into prices of other goods as the core index advanced by a only 0.1 per cent.

The Bank of Canada is widely expected to hold rates steady at three per cent Sept. 3 on the basis inflation will eventually ease to the bank's two per cent target by late 2009. REUTERS

rate cuts

- Some economists expect rate cuts by the bank as soon as the fourth quarter of this year or early 2009.

Rules eased on telephone rates

TELECOM Canadian telephone companies will soon be allowed to change their phone rates without the need for prior regulatory approval, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has said.

Providers like BCE Inc., Telus and Rogers Communications Inc. will be able make changes to their tariffs as of Oct. 6, as long as the changes stay within previously imposed limits.

The CRTC said the policy change would make pricing procedures more efficient. REUTERS

Business in brief

OIL Oil supplies may be running slightly ahead of current world demand, the Iraqi oil minister said yesterday. He would not say if the situation meant OPEC needed to cut output at its September meeting, adding that the group has to first review its market data.

OIL Oil prices rose nearly 5 percent yesterday, the biggest gain since June, driven by rising tensions between the United States and energy behemoth Russia over a U.S. deal with Poland to station parts of a U.S. missile defence shield on Polish soil. REUTERS

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Injury prone Pavano makes returns to Yankees

The oft-injured Carl Pavano is scheduled to start for the New York Yankees on Saturday in Baltimore, according to the Newark Star Ledger. The 32-year-old inked a four-year, $39.95 million contract with the Yankees before the 2005 season, but has played in just 19 games. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

NFL's Upshaw dies at age 63

Pro Football Hall of Famer and longtime head of the NFL Players Association (NFLPA) Gene Upshaw, left, has died after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, the NFLPA announced on Thursday. He was 63. Upshaw, seven times selected as a Pro Bowl guard during his playing career with the Raiders, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1987 and had served as executive director of the players' union since 1983. REUTERS

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Jays get Bautista from Pirates

MLB The Toronto Blue Jays acquired infielder Jose Bautista from the Pittsburgh Pirates yesterday for a player to be named later.

The Pirates demoted the third baseman Bautista to Triple-A Indianapolis last week after he hit .242 with 12 home runs and 44 RBI in 107 games with the big club.

Toronto will be the 27-year-old's fifth stop in the big leagues since debuting in 2004.

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Esks topple 'Riders

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Eskimos 27 Roughriders 10

DAN REDLHUBER/REUTERS

Saskatchewan Roughriders' back Wes Cates, left, and his teammates couldn't find a way past the Edmonton Eskimos defence last night, as the Eskimos beat the Roughriders 27-10.

Better late than never. Much better.

After giving up 17 straight points in a 34-13 loss to the Saskatchewan Roughriders to open their CFL schedule June 28, the Edmonton Eskimos turned the tables in a big way last night.

Down 10-0 early, the Eskimos gave a crowd of 48,808 at Commonwealth Stadium plenty to cheer about late as they reeled off 27 straight points on the way to a 27-10 victory.

It's a win that not only runs the Esks' dominance over Saskatchewan on home turf to 10-1 in the last 11 meetings, it's an outcome that improves them to 5-3 and keeps them within hailing distance of the 6-2 Roughriders in the West Division coming out of the bye-week.

While quarterback Ricky Ray has been the story most games this season, running back A.J. Harris grabbed the spotlight, not to mention the pigskin, as he lugged the ball 21 times for 189 yards to lead the comeback.

Sports in brief

NHL Steve Bernier may be new to Vancouver, but he's already learned one important lesson: don't assume anything about line combinations. Bernier has been billed by many as a perfect fit alongside the Sedins, but he says he'll just focus on having a strong training camp and worry about linemates after that. Jesse Schultz, Jan Bulis and numerous others have publicly assumed the role of triplet prior to being awarded it, only to wind up playing elsewhere during the season.

CFL The B.C. Lions are hoping to go streaking tonight when they host the Calgary Stampeders; however, there's no nudity involved. The Lions have dominated the Stamps at B.C. Place in recent years, winning every matchup there since 2002.

SCOTT RINTOUL/METRO VANCOUVER

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MLB

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AMERICAN LEAGUE
Cleveland 10 Kansas City 3
Toronto 14 N.Y. Yankees 3
Minnesota at L.A. Angels
Oakland 2 Seattle 0

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Chicago Cubs 3 Cincinnati 2
L.A. Dodgers 3 Colorado 1
N.Y. Mets 5 Atlanta 4
San Francisco 4 Florida 3
Washington 4 Philadelphia 3
Arizona 4 San Diego 1

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 4:05
Boston at Toronto, 4:07
Cleveland at Texas, 5:05
Detroit at Kansas City, 5:10
Tampa Bay at Chicago White Sox, 5:11
Minnesota at L.A. Angels, 7:05
Oakland at Seattle, 7:10

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Washington at Chicago Cubs, 11:20
L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 4:05
Houston at N.Y. Mets, 4:10
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 5:05
Atlanta at St. Louis, 5:15
Cincinnati at Colorado, 6:05
Florida at Arizona, 6:40
San Diego at San Francisco, 7:15

CFL

WEEK 9
LAST NIGHT'S RESULT
Saskatchewan at Edmonton
TONIGHT'S GAME
Calgary at B.C., 7:30

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GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS MEN'S TEAM:
TONIGHT'S GAME
Portland at VANCOUVER, 8

BASEBALL

NORTHWEST LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER CANADIANS:
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Eugene 6 VANCOUVER 1
TONIGHT'S GAME
VANCOUVER at Eugene, 7:05

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Athletics
Gary Reed of Kamloops, B.C., qualified for the men's 800-metre final yesterday in pouring rain in Beijing. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beijing Games

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Heymans makes a silver splash

DIVING Canada's Emilie Heymans was edged out for gold by her top rival's final dive yesterday in Beijing.

Heymans

The native of St-Lambert, Que., unleashed a series of excellent dives as the home crowd roared for teenage favourites Chen Ruolin and Wang Xin. She came desperately close to becoming the first diver to beat the Chinese at these Games.

Chen, eventually took gold and Wang the bronze.

"I've been training really hard and I'm just glad that everything is over now," Heymans said. REUTERS

From banned to gold

Canadian Lamaze eclipses drug scandals with medal

Canada's Eric Lamaze, who missed two Games because of drugs bans, won the Olympic show jumping gold after two dramatic jump-offs yesterday.

In a thrilling climax to the equestrian events, Lamaze put his past troubles behind him to beat Sweden's Rolf-Goran Bengtsson for the top spot. American Beezie Madden took the bronze.

"There were days when this was only a dream. Now it's a reality."
Eric Lamaze

"The past is the past, and if this doesn't make people forgive and talk to me about this all the time, I don't know what will," said Lamaze, a resident of Schomberg, Ont.

"There were days when this was only a dream. Now it's a reality."

Lamaze, 40, who won silver as part of the Canadian equestrian team event earlier in the week, was thrown off the Canadian teams for the 1996 and 2000 Games after testing positive for two separate occasions of cocaine on occasions.

He also tested positive for a banned diet supplement in 2000 and has received two lifetime bans during his career, both of which were overturned after he appealed them.

BOBBY YIP/REUTERS

Eric Lamaze of Schomberg, Ont., riding Hickstead, celebrates his win in the final round of the individual jumping equestrian event yesterday at the Olympic Games in Hong Kong.

Sports in brief

BMX Anne-Caroline Chausson of France won the gold medal in BMX in its Olympic debut early this morning in Beijing. Laetitia Le Corguille of France won the silver and American Jill Kintner took the bronze. Sammy Cools of Airdrie, Alta., crashed and fell off her bike before the first curve and placed seventh.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Medal count

Rank	Nation				Total
#1	U.S.	29	34	32	95
#2	China	46	15	22	83
#3	Russia	16	16	19	51
#4	Britain	17	12	11	40
#5	Australia	11	13	14	38
#6	Germany	11	8	12	31
#7	France	4	12	14	30
#8	South Korea	10	10	6	26
#9	Japan	9	6	9	24
#10	Italy	6	7	8	21
#11	Ukraine	5	5	9	19
#12	Netherlands	6	5	4	15
#12	Canada	3	7	5	15

(Count at the end of Day 13)

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Athletics
Jamaica's Veronica Campbell-Brown won the Olympic 200-metre final yesterday. American Allyson Felix won silver and Jamaican Kerron Stewart claimed bronze. REUTERS

Beijing Games

Olympians need your $8

Canadians doing great, but can do better with more cash

YorkReport

Marty York
marty.york@metronews.ca

The feast this week has, of course, been substantially more satisfying and more gratifying than the famine last week for Canada's Olympic squad.

After collecting exactly zero medals in Week 1, our athletes entered competition this morning with 15 — three of them gold. They also climbed into a 12th-place tie in the medal standings, which is noteworthy because the Canadian Olympic Committee had set a pre-Games objective of finishing among the top 16 countries.

When all is said and done in Beijing this weekend, Canadians won't need to bury their heads in shame. There won't be any countries you've never heard of ahead of Canada in the standings. And we'll wind up well ahead of many other proud and prominent nations, including Sweden, Austria and Greece.

We will not be red-faced. We will not be humiliated. We will not be embarrassed.

Still, while the Canadian team will leave Beijing with more hardware than its predecessors in 2004 and 2000 at Athens and Sydney, respectively, it will be hard-pressed to match the 22 medals Canada earned at Atlanta in the 1996 Summer Games. And it will come nowhere close to the Canadian-best 44 medals amassed at Los Angeles in 1984.

"It's a shame, frankly, because we really could be doing much better in Beijing," lamented Jane Roos, founder of a decade-old charity devoted to raising funds for Canada's Olympians.

"Our athletes do everything on their own personal power to increase their chances of becoming medallists, but we as a nation could provide them with the direct funding that could enhance their performances. Our rowers, for example, need to eat 6,000 calories a day. How do you eat that much from $1,500 a month from the government? Our rowers shouldn't need to worry about how they're going to pay their food bills. They shouldn't need to worry about how they'll pay their coach or how they'll get to training camps."

"Our athletes are at a major disadvantage when it comes to funding." Jane Roos

Roos has come up with an innovative eight-dollar donation/sponsorship program in a bid to help future Canadian Olympians.

"Our athletes are at a major disadvantage when it comes to funding," she said. "Canadians need to realize that, if they donated a mere eight dollars, they could impact the lives of Canadian athletes and, indirectly, impact their own lives, because I guarantee our results at the next Olympics would be more impressive and more satisfying."

Canadian kayaking king and flag-bearer Adam van Koeverden is personally donating $800 to his fellow Olympians.

"This," van Koeverden said, "is a vital program for our athletes' future."

Check it out at canadianathletesnow.ca.

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music Pg 24

Music high in the sky

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westcoast Pg 23

Supermoto a hot new sport

Anna's in the house Pg 16

ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Anna Faris stars as the centre(fold) of the movie The House Bunny, in which a Playboy bunny gets kicked out of the mansion and moves in with a clan of sorority girls. The movie opens today.

music Pg 24

The New Pornographers aim for a mellow show.

movie review Pg 18

Death Race built solely on shock-value and adrenaline.

urban foodie Pg 28

Our writer partakes in the casual comfort at Crave.

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Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

This Bunny lacks hop

House **Bunny**

Director: Fred Wolf
Stars: Anna Faris, Colin Hanks
Classification: PG
Rating:

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW According to the movie's production notes, The House Bunny is about a Playboy model "who teaches an awkward sorority about the opposite sex – only to learn that what boys really like is what's on the inside". That wasn't quite the movie I saw.

Directed by Fred Wolf (who polluted theatres earlier this year with Strange Wilderness) and written by the team behind Legally Blonde (who must be legally out of ideas), this dud tells the story of the aforementioned dopey model (Anna Faris) who joins a sorority after she thinks she's ejected from the Playboy Mansion for turning 27.

Well, that is "59 in bunny years" she's told, so I guess you know what you can take away from that, ladies: After 27, feel free to leave your knickers on.

The movie aims to be a tale of empowerment but it should end up an embarrassment to any woman with a shred of dignity.

And it's not only the shallowness of the main character's primary ambition to get naked in Playboy that insults me; it's that all the characters in this film are so insipid, one-dimensional and boy-crazy that trying to squeeze any depth from this flick is like searching for theological subtext in a Jonas Brothers song.

It's a shame too because Anna Faris has proven she can provide lift to most mediocre turkeys (seen her in Just Friends?) but in this, her talents are wasted staggering through unfunny dialogue with flat, inane characters.

As watchable as the big-eyed beauty is, when your wittiest line is "eyes are the nipples of the face", let's be honest, it's time to euthanize the poor bunny.

MELINDA SUE GORDON/MGM

Anna Faris plays a Playboy playmate who thinks she's banished in House Bunny.

Durst's second movie as director is something of a Longshot

The **Longshots**

Director: Fred Durst
Stars: Ice Cube, Keke Palmer
Classification: G
Rating:

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Ice Cube dons a Walter Payton jersey to coach Keke Palmer in The Longshots, a true story of a girl who plays on a boy's football team.

REVIEW What do you do when you've already conquered the charts as an obnoxious front-man of a nu-metal band, supposedly slept with Britney Spears and been the subject of your own sex tape controversy? Well, naturally, you make an over-sentimental family film about a little girl who becomes a football player…duh!

Directed by Fred Durst (better known as the lead singer of Limp Bizkit — he's the one who "did it all for the nookie", remember?), The Longshots tells the true story of 11-year old Jasmine Plummer (played by Keke Palmer) who, under the tutelage of Uncle Curtis (Ice Cube) discovered her hidden talent for football and became the first female ever to play in the esteemed Pop Warner Super Bowl tournament.

Now, it's no secret that the underdog story isn't an original premise when it comes to football films (especially if you've seen Rudy or Invincible) and The Longshots isn't much different.

Sure, it's based on a true story, but riddled with a formulaic plot that hinges on the now-obsolete hook that a girl can play a boys game, well, The Longshots is a pretty bland concept for the big-screen.

While Ice Cube does provide some decent support as a washed-up quarterback getting a vicarious second shot at glory, the plot moves so quickly that developments are never completely played through.

Worse than that, they're short on conflict — the essence of drama.

In the end, that's the film's biggest downfall — sure, it's harmless enough, but The Longshots' saccharine intent to inspire is simply overbearing.

It makes me wonder — is Fred Durst feeling guilty about something?

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Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Just a lot of weak jabs

Hamlet 2

Director: Andrew Fleming
Stars: Steve Coogan, Catherine Keener
Classification: 14A
Rating:

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW When seriously unfunny movies like Hamlet 2 get erected around seriously funny actors like Steve Coogan, it's reasonable to ask what went wrong. In this case, it's that Coogan has been robbed of his prime comic weapon — his bone-dry British imperiousness.

Cast as an antic Arizona high school drama teacher attempting to save his credibility and his job by mounting an unprecedentedly offensive original play — that'd be Hamlet 2, with a plot involving a time machine and chirpy songs about rape and Jesus Christ's "hot swimmer's body" — Coogan trades his usual shiv-sharp subtlety for a blustery, Christopher Guest style caricature. The results aren't pretty.

Perhaps attempting to atone for the retro-blandness of Nancy Drew, co-writer/director Andrew Fleming stabs wildly at taboos: Coogan's young charges trade racist barbs in between rehearsals; characters drop acid and reference crystal meth addiction; a key player takes a tentative step out of the closet; child molestation is deployed as a punchline.

It's all admirably anti-P.C., but that's all it is — there's no real satirical thrust here, just a lot of weak jabs at easy targets (newsflash: the American religious right are a bunch of humourless hysterics!) and sub-waiting for gags about the massive gulf between Coogan's ambition and his talent.

There's not a lot to laugh at here, and the fact that the filmmakers seem so smugly proud of their supposed transgressions doesn't help.

In fact, they like their piddling attempt at a live-action episode of South Park so much that I don't have to.

Movie morsels

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

REVIEW The Clone Wars sticks Anakin Skywalker and company in the middle of an intergalactic war between the clones and the droids. In reality, this movie kicks-off a new animated series and highlighting where this film truly belongs – on TV. Sure, it's an interesting combination of CGI and anime but the story itself is about as compelling as watching somebody play a videogame for 90 minutes.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Tropic Thunder

1/2

REVIEW Ben Stiller leads the all-star cast of Jack Black, Robert Downey Jr. and even Tom Cruise (in a surprising role that's sure to relieve those who thought he'd all but beamed up to Planet Thetan) in this spoof of Hollywood egos and icons.

Stiller plays Tugg Speedman, a fleeting action star leading the cast of a fictional war film being shot in Southeast Asia. After the movie goes over budget, the actors are sent into the jungle to capture "real fear in their eyes". Instead, the gang loses their director, get lost themselves and fall prey to real terrorists. The twist: They're convinced it's all part of the movie.

It's a great premise and one that doesn't let down with its cast.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Pineapple Express

1/2

REVIEW Produced by Judd Apatow and starring Hollywood's favorite court jester Seth Rogen, this film is a Midnight Run-type caper about a dope-smoking process server who goes on the lam with his hapless drug dealer (James Franco) after witnessing a murder. Sure, it's a hollow story and the pacing is uneven, but this comedy still works as an impossibly hip comedy about impossibly uncool characters.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Vicky Cristina Barcelona

1/2

REVIEW Vicky Cristina Barcelona appears on screens one year shy of the 40th anniversary of Woody Allen's directorial debut Take The Money And Run. Despite the fact that the director has averaged one film per year since, his latest movie has the energy, vitality, and themes of a young filmmaker trying to make a name for himself. Scarlett Johansson and Rebecca Hall star as the titular duo Vicky and Cristina, two lost souls spending a summer in Barcelona. They meet Juan Antonio (Javier Bardem), an artist who introduces himself by inviting the pair to join him for a weekend of food, wine, and lovemaking. The girls agree and while Vicky must put aside her feelings for Juan because of an impending marriage, Cristina continues her affair with the artist, which grows more complicated when his ex-wife (Peneope Cruz) returns. What follows is a breezy, cheerful, and hilarious ode to youthful indiscretions filmed in the burned-out warm colours and unpredictable style of New Mexican Cinema.

Phil Brown/Metro Canada

Bottle Shock

REVIEW Aside from a scene in which Bill Pullman obliterates the top of a bottle of wine with a samurai sword, there are no surprises in Bottle Shock. This is partially because its story – about a group of affable, flannel-clad Napa Valley winemakers who turn the industry on its snooty French nose by producing a top-shelf Chardonnay – is based in fact:In 1973, the California-based Chateau Montelana won a French tasting contest and made the marketplace safe for American plonk. It's also because director Randall Miller never met a reaction shot or an overbearing music cue that he couldn't use: Bottle Shock is perfectly content to be pap.

Adam Nayman/Metro Canada

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Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

SAG contract talks hurting Toronto's new mega-studio

Filmport, Toronto's mega-studio and a possible white knight for its stranded film production sector, opened its doors Wednesday with just one problem — no studio tenant.

Phase 1 of the $60 million, 260,000-square-foot complex, which comprises seven stages, is so far without a Hollywood studio on board as the contract talks between the Screen Actors Guild and the producers drag on in Los Angeles.

Filmport Studios president Ken Ferguson predicts that the complex will fill up once the majors reach a new deal with the actors guild.

"In these challenging times for the Toronto film industry, we needed a boost. We hope Filmport can play a role in putting Toronto where it belongs, back on top," he said at a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Mayor David Miller and Canadian director David Cronenberg.

"We hope Filmport can play a role in putting Toronto ... back on top."
Ken Ferguson

Filmport, which includes a pillar-free 46,500-square-foot stage for effects-heavy studio pictures, already has leased out office space to George Romero's Diary of the Dead 2, which is shooting on location in Toronto.

Additionally, Universal is eyeing Filmport for its Scott Pilgrim vs. the World project, which is based on a comic by local writer Bryan Lee O'Malley and set in Toronto. But with the Canadian dollar at near parity with the American greenback, and New York offering a 35 per cent tax credit, Universal producers also are considering the Big Apple as a stand-in for Toronto.

Paul Bronfman, chairman of Comweb Corp., which has a near-half stake in Filmport, said the mega-studio and Toronto will have to work hard to secure big-budget studio shoots after the Hollywood actors ink a deal. REUTERS

Death Race is dud-ly

Death Race
Director: Paul W.S. Anderson
Stars: Jason Statham, Joan Allen
Classification: 18A
Rating:

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Death Race, built solely on shock value and adrenaline, has plenty of mindless action.

REVIEW For anyone who thinks Death Race is a remake of the cult-classic Death Race 2000 starring David Carradine — think again!

Instead, writer/director Paul W.S. Anderson (who is trying to turn his luck around after making AVP: Alien vs. Predator four years yonder) claims this was tailored to be a prequel to the original film, although that doesn't make much sense, either, since 2000 was, you know, eight years ago.

Set in the near-future, Death Race stars Jason Statham (Crank) as Jensen Ames, an innocent man who goes to jail for supposedly killing his wife. There, the former NASCAR driver is recruited to race other life-term inmates under the pseudonym of Frankenstein in a reality-show called Death Race.

The catch: The cars are loaded with machine guns. The dangling carrot: Whoever wins, goes free.

If that sounds familiar, you probably saw last year's The Condemned starring pro-wrestler Steve Austin. Death Race's plot is practically identical, and likewise, it's built solely on shock value and adrenaline without the quirky satirical critique on violence that fuelled the 1975 original.

On its own merit, Death Race has plenty of mindless action, some crazy car stunts and riveting death scenes. But it's all so over-the-top — especially the script and performances.

Joan Allen is a three-time Oscar nominee, but here she seems to be playing a vicious prison warden for laughs when she threatens Ames that if he messes with her, "We'll find out who shts on the sidewalk."

If only that horrible line had come from a wrestler, maybe this film wouldn't have seemed so counterfeit.

Rolling Stone
"Hardcore hilarious.
It slaps a big, fat, goofy smile on your face that lasts for days.
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Superhero summer worth $4B

BOX OFFFICE Hollywood studios are nearing the end of their summer of superheroes with domestic box office receipts expected to roughly match last year's record $4.18 billion US sum despite lower movie attendance.

Led by the blockbuster Batman sequel The Dark Knight, U.S.-Canadian weekend ticket sales since May 2 are running just ahead of last summer, up 1.2 per cent, according to box-office tracking service Media By Numbers.

But with the number of actual admissions down nearly 3 percent from a year ago, the gain in revenues is fueled mostly by higher ticket prices.

With no other huge hits on the horizon before Labour Day, the 2008 vacation season will likely draw to a close about the same as last year's summer tally, which crossed the $4 billion threshold for the first time, box office analysts said.

Brandon Gray of the website Box Office Mojo said Hollywood suffered in the second half of summer from a mediocre film slate. REUTERS

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Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Becker achieving his Goal

STEVE VEALE
for Metro Canada

Movie audiences who watch Kuno Becker as Real Madrid soccer sensation Santiago Munez may be forgiven if they think Becker is a soccer baby — he looks like a rugged athlete born to take the field with the likes of David Beckham and Raúl González Blanco, the rock stars of the Soccer world.

Kuno Becker stars in Goal II: Living the Dream.

"I was never an athlete," said Becker. "I played in school, of course, but I had to really learn the game for these films." (Goal! and Goal! II)

The young Kuno was something of a musical child prodigy and was readily accepted into the prestigious Mozarteum of Salzberg, Austria where he became an accomplished violinist.

For both films, Becker trained rigorously in Mexico, Los Angeles and Madrid. He had to look and act like his teammates, athletes who have been playing since they were three years old. "And they've been playing for 25 years!" said Becker.

And succeed he does. He is fast and fluid and boots that ball with lightning speed past the goaltender.

Becker, now 30, set aside his violin for acting lessons when he was 17 and quickly found work in Mexico's booming television industry.

"Television was a great training ground," he explained. "It is much faster, so I learned how to resolve difficult issues very quickly. I learned so much working in television."

North Americans may not recognize the name but moviegoers will recognize him from films such as Ivan Passar's Nomad (with Jason Scott and Jay Hernandez), Christopher Hampton's Imagining Argentina (with Antonio Banderas and Emma Thompson) and his big screen debut in Antonio Serrano's Lucia, Lucia, one of the first Spanish-language films to find an audience north of the Mexican border.

The latter movie is well known, but go to your local DVD store and rent Imagining Argentina. Becker is memorable among a great cast as the duplicitous traitor sent to spy on his fellow citizens who are looking for their "disappeared" friends and relatives during Argentina's bleak period of military rule.

As for Goal! II, Becker said he "loved the challenge" of not only becoming a superstar athlete but "portraying a man suddenly faced with personal conflict in his life."

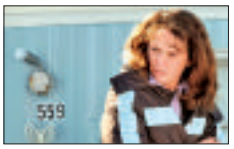
One can only hope — perhaps in the planned Goal! III — that his athlete character is sidelined for a while and forced to take up a hobby – say, oh, the violin. It would be interesting to see/hear more of his talents.

A hokey River?

Frozen River

Director: Courtney Hunt
Stars: Melissa Leo, Misty Upham
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

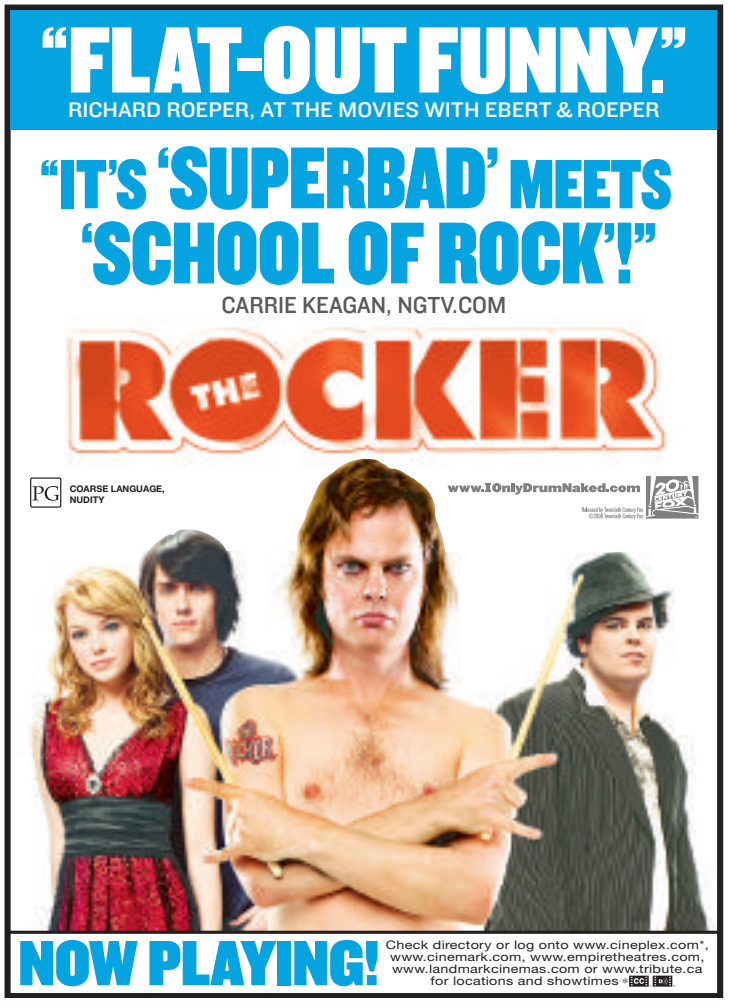


Melissa Leo (Homicide: Life on the Street) stars in Frozen River.

REVIEW This Sundance prize winner has all the prerequisites of serious American independent cinema: a gritty real-world milieu (a snowbound stretch of New York state right along the 49th parallel), a nicely unvarnished visual style, and a pertinent, complex social issue (illegal border crossing) at its centre. And yet Frozen River feels ersatz, both in its dramatic particulars and its interest in its poverty-line-towing characters.

Certainly, there's finesse in Melissa Leo's lead performance. This marvelous actress, so good during her stint on Homicide: Life on the Street brings authentic shading and an impressive lack of vanity to a pretty standard-issue character: Ray, a struggling single mother trying to keep her family afloat after the departure of their deadbeat dad. Circumstance brings her together with Lila (Misty Upham), a Mohawk woman who supports herself by aiding human traffickers.

A laboriously constructed morality tale that imposes after-school-special-level lessons about tolerance on its miserable characters is one thing; a laboriously constructed morality tale strewn with obvious symbolism (a Christmas Eve miracle rebirth) and screenwriting-class metaphors (one character is able to literally "see clearly" after getting a new pair of glasses) is another, even more exhausting, proposition.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Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Coogan's time to shine

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

You've seen him in A Night at the Museum and this summer's Tropic Thunder. He's been accused in the media of giving drugs to Owen Wilson. And in the UK, he's a huge star. But if you ran into Steve Coogan on the street, you probably wouldn't recognize him.

Steve Coogan, centre, plays an unorthodox high school drama teacher in Hamlet 2.

"I'm sort of known by certain people in the industry for independent films," Coogan said during a recent interview in Toronto.

"But this is the first thing I've done that's been given a platform with lots of support." He's, of course, referring to Hamlet 2, his first real leading role in a big Hollywood movie. A zany comedy about Dana Marschz — a high school drama teacher who attempts to direct a sequel to a play where all the characters died at the end — Hamlet 2 is a departure for the English comedian who earned his reputation making indie flicks like 24 Hour Party People and Happy Endings.

"I wanted to do a comedy film that was broad, accessible and not too esoteric," admits Coogan, "and when I read the script, this fits the bill. It's smart but it's not hard-going; it's easy to watch."

That it is. But his character is still not typical of most Hollywood protagonists. A failed thespian who idolizes Elizabeth Shue and pitches herpes medication on TV, Dana Marschz is not your average hero.

"He's a loser. He's a slightly tragic figure but he's an innocent too," defends Coogan of the character's consistent mess-ups. "The audience have to like him in some way to stay with the film; you had to give him some sort of emotional momentum because he's trying to do the right thing. He's a good person; he's just a bit of an idiot too."

With Coogan now receiving great praise for his hilarious performance, it would seem that Hamlet 2 is sure to be just what Steve Coogan needed to finally make it in Hollywood — after 20 years in showbiz.

"If people go to see it," agrees Coogan while laughing. "I suppose it will be a breakthrough."

Quote of the week

GETTY IMAGES

"I try not to date where I work. It makes life easier. Besides, the possibility has never really arisen. I don't say no to anybody, because I'd hope that people wouldn't say no to me just because I'm an actor — but they'd have to be pretty extraordinary."

Anne Hathaway talking about being back on the dating scene.

SOURCE: BRITAIN'S INDEPENDENT

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Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., AUG. 22 TO THURS., AUG. 28. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

Vancouver

OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

The Alps (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2-4 Fri-Sat 8:30

Australia: Land Beyond Time (STC) Sat 7:30

Dinosaurs Alive! (STC) Fri-Thu 1

Extra Large Shorts (STC) Fri-Thu 5

Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Fri-Thu 11-3 Fri 7:30

CN IMAX THEATRE
201-999 Canada Place, 604-682-4629

Deep Sea 3D (G) Fri-Thu 6-9

Dinosaurs 3D: Giants of Patagonia (STC) A.M. Fri-Thu 11

Dolphins and Whales 3D: Tribes of the Ocean (G) Fri-Thu 2-10

Fly Me to the Moon (Maximum 3D Experience) (G) Fri-Thu 12-3-7

Okavango (STC) Fri-Thu 5

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

Tropic Thunder (18A) Sat-Thu 7-9:30

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

Bottle Shock (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:10-9:25

Brideshead Revisited (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:10-6:50-9:30 Mon 1:15-4:10-9:30 Tue-Thu 1:15-4:10-6:50-9:30

The Dark Knight (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10

Hamlet 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 2-4:55-7:30-9:45

Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:20-9:35

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Brideshead Revisited (PG) DTS Digital Fri-Sun 1:10-4-6:50-9:40 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 6:50-9:40

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG) SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:45 SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 6:55-9:45

Iron Man (PG) SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sat 1:20-4:10-7-9:50 SR Dolby Digital Sun 1:20 SR Dolby Digital Mon 9:50 SR Dolby Digital Tue-Thu 7-9:50

Kung Fu Panda (G) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sun 1:30-3:45-7:10 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 7:10

Man on Wire (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 9:25

Sex and the City (18A) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sun 1-4:15-7:30 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 7:30

Singh Is Kinng (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sun 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:35 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 6:45-9:35

The X-Files: I Want to Believe (14A) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sun 1:25-3:50-7:05-9:30 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 7:05-9:30

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca

Sex and the City (18A) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 3:45-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

Speed Racer (PG) Sat-Sun 1:30

Where in the World Is Osama bin Laden? (PG) Fri-Thu 10

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

The Dark Knight (14A) Fri-Thu 2:20-6:30-9:40

Death Race (18A) Fri-Thu 2:10-4:35-7-9:30

The House Bunny (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:25-6:50-9:20

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

Dark Passage (STC) Wed 9:25 Thu 7:30

Dead Reckoning (STC) Wed 7:30 Thu 9:30

Laura (STC) Sun 9:20

Night and the City (STC) Fri 9:25 Sun 7:30

Night Has a Thousand Eyes (STC) Sat 7:30 Mon 9:25

The Postman Always Rings Twice (STC) Fri 7:15 Sat 9:10

The Woman in the Window (STC) Mon 7:30

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Jellyfish (PG) A.M. Sun 10

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG) Fri 4-7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:45-4-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:20

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

Amal (PG) Fri 4-7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:45-4-7-9:20 Mon-Tue 4-7-9:20 Wed 4-9:20 Thu 4-7-9:20

North by Northwest (STC) A.M. Sun 10

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

Pineapple Express (18A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Cirque du Soleil: Delirium (G) Sat-Sun 1

The Dark Knight (14A) Fri 12-3:45-7:20-10:45 Sat-Sun 12 Mon-Thu 12-3:45-7:20-10:45 Sat-Sun 3:45-7:20-10:45

Death Race (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:15-10:20

The House Bunny (PG) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30

Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri-Wed 12:10-3:20-6:50-9:50 Thu 12:10-3:20-9:50

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (14A) Fri 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 3:30-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:40

Pineapple Express (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:45-10:40

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:10-10

Tropic Thunder (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:30 Fri-Thu 11:50-2:40-5:20-8:10-11

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799
cinemark.com

Boy A (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:20-7:50-10:25

Frozen River (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:20-4:50-7:15-9:45

Hamlet 2 (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:25-2:40-5-7:25-10:05

Hancock (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 7:55-10:10 No Passes Sun-Tue 12:45-3:15-5:35-7:55-10:10

Hellboy II: The Golden Army (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20

Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-2:30

The Longshots (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:25-4:45-7:05-9:25

Mirrors (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7-9:40

The Rocker (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-2:35-5:15-7:45-10:35

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10-9:55

Step Brothers (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:30-8:10:30

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:35-10

WALL-E (G) Fri-Sat 1:55-4:35 Sun-Thu 1:55-4:35-7:20-9:50

Wanted (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 5:05-7:40-10:15

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film
vifc.org

Chop Shop (STC) Fri 7 Sat 8:45 Sun 7 Mon-Wed 7-8:45

I Build the Tower (STC) Fri 8:45 Sat 7 Sun 8:45

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.com

Tropic Thunder (18A) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 4:45-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

North Shore

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Cirque du Soleil: Delirium (G) Sat-Sun 1

The Dark Knight (14A) Fri-Thu 2:20-6:30-9:45

The House Bunny (PG) Fri-Thu 2:10-4:40-7:20-9:35

Journey to the Center of the Earth 3D (PG) Fri 1:40-4:6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 4-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 1:40-4-6:40-9:20

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:50

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:10-6:50-9:30

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:30-7-9:25

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Death Race (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-7-9:55

Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri-Wed 1-3:45-6:30-9:20 Thu 3:45-6:30-9:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

Mirrors (18A) Fri-Thu 3:10-6:45-9:50

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10

Pineapple Express (18A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:20-7:10-10

The Rocker (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-3-6:40-9:35

Tropic Thunder (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:25-6:50-9:30

Richmond

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

The Dark Knight (14A) Fri 3:30-6:45-10 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:30-6:45-10 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:45-10

The House Bunny (PG) Fri 3:50-7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:50-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:10-9:45

Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri 3:45-6:55-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:25-3:45-6:55-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:55-9:40

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (14A) Fri 3:55-7:05-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:55-7:05-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:55-7:05-9:50

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) Fri 3:40-7-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:40-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:40-7-9:35

Tropic Thunder (18A) Fri 4-7:20-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:40-4-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 4-7:20-9:55

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

Bachna Ae Haseeno (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30

The Dark Knight (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4-7:30-10:45

The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-7:10:15

Death Race (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:55-4:10-7:35-10:35

Hamlet 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4-6:55-9:35

The House Bunny (PG) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:30-7:45-10:20

The Longshots (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:05-7-9:50

Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:40

Mirrors (18A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:45-7:50-10:40

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:10-6:50-9:45

Pineapple Express (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:40-7:10-7:40-10-10:40

The Rocker (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:35-9:25

Singh Is Kinng (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 4:05-7:25-10:25

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:15-7:15-10:15

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-12:40-3:20-3:35-7:30-10:10

Step Brothers (14A) Fri-Thu 7:25-10:05

Tropic Thunder (18A) Fri-Thu 12:15-1:30-3-4:20-7:05-7:20-9:55-10:30

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG) Fri-Wed 1:15-3:55-6:45-9:30 Thu 3:55-6:45-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

WALL-E (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:25

Burnaby

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Listings not available at press time.

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

Cirque du Soleil: Delirium (G) Sat-Sun 1

The Dark Knight (14A) Fri-Thu 12-3:25-7-10:20

Death Race (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-3-7:45-10:30

The House Bunny (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:35-7:40-10:40

Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG) Fri 12:45-3:30-6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 3:30-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 12:45-3:30-6:50-9:30

Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:40-7:10-10:15

Mirrors (18A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:40-7:50-10:50

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10-6:55-9:55

Pineapple Express (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:55-7:05-10:05

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:55-5:40-8-10:45

Tropic Thunder (18A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-7-9:45

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Brideshead Revisited (PG) Fri 6:25 Sat-Sun 12:25-6:25 Mon-Thu 6:25

The Dark Knight (14A) Fri 3:15-6:15-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15 Mon-Thu 3:15-6:15-9:15

Hancock (PG) Fri-Thu 3:25-9:25

Hellboy II: The Golden Army (14A) Fri-Thu 9:40

Kung Fu Panda (G) Fri 3:55-6:55 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:55-6:55 Mon-Thu 3:55-6:55

The Longshots (G) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:50

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG) Fri 3:35-6:35-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:35-6:35-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:35-9:35

Step Brothers (14A) Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30

WALL-E (G) Fri 3:45-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:45-7-9:45

New West/ Coquitlam

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Cirque du Soleil: Delirium (G) Sat-Sun 1

The Dark Knight (14A) Fri-Thu 11:35-12:05-3-3:30-6:45-7:10-10-10:30

Death Race (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:50-4:45-7:30-10:20

Hancock (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:05

Hellboy II: The Golden Army (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45

The House Bunny (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:20-9:40

Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG) Fri 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:10-9:35 Sat-Sun 4:50-7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:10-9:35

Kung Fu Panda (G) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:05

The Longshots (G) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:25-10:25

Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:10

Mirrors (18A) Fri-Thu 1:55-4:55-7:50-10:40

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:35-9:15

Pineapple Express (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:40-7:40-9:30-10:35

The Rocker (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10:10

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG) Fri-Mon 12:45-3:45-6:55-9:50 Tue 1-3:45-6:55-9:50 Wed-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:55-9:50

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-12:55-2:40-3:35-5:10-7:45-10:05

Step Brothers (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:35-10:15

Tropic Thunder (18A) Fri-Thu 12-1-3:10-4:10-6:25-7:15-9:25-9:55

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-6:50-9:20

WALL-E (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:05

Surrey/White Rock/Langley

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Listings not available at press time.

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Get Smart (PG) Fri-Thu 8:40

Hancock (PG) Fri-Thu 3:45-7:25-9:25

Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:15-4:45

Kung Fu Panda (G) Fri-Thu 12-1:50-5:30

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (14A) Fri-Thu 7-9:15

WALL-E (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:10-4:20-6:30

DEATH RACE
GET READY FOR A KILLER RIDE.
UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA AN IMPACT PICTURES-C/W PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH ROGER CORMAN A PAUL W.S. ANDERSON FILM
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DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SCOTT KEVAN BASED ON THE SCREENPLAY BY ROBERT THOM AND CHARLES GRIFFITH STORY BY IB MELCHIOR EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ROGER CORMAN DENNIS E. JONES DON GRANGER RYAN KAVANAUGH
PRODUCED BY PAUL A WAGNER JEREMY BOLT PAUL W.S. ANDERSON SCREEN STORY AND SCREENPLAY BY PAUL W.S. ANDERSON DIRECTED BY PAUL W.S. ANDERSON A UNIVERSAL PICTURE
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www.deathracemovie.net
Check Theatre Directory or www.universalpictures.ca for Locations and Showtimes

Super Dave fact
The Ironman Canada goes this weekend in Penticton. www.ironman.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

West Coast Weekend

Supermoto roars into Abbotsford

WestCoastOutdoors

Dave Norona
www.noronalife.com

HOWARD TAKAI

Jordan Alisch slides it through a corner at the Tradex Convention Center Course in Abbotsford.

What happens when you take a full-fledged dirt bike, give it even more power and then add slick tires? Well, you get supermoto!

This weekend, Abbotsford is hosting the Canadian championship for this new sport and the action promises to be fast and furious.

The new hybrid sport is part motocross, part flat track and part road racing.

Tracks are typically 70 per cent asphalt and 30 per cent dirt with motocross-style jumps.

Racers ride atop modified dirt bikes with street bike rims and tires, but bigger brakes for stopping power.

The sport is also beginner- and novice-friendly, with tracks that emphasize handling and maneuverability through tight corners, rather than flat-out top speeds.

For those who would like to try it out, practice sessions are held at the 440 track in Tsawwassen.

Larger supermoto events are held at the Tradex Trade and Convention Center in Abbotsford, the site of this Sunday's Canadian Supermoto Championship.

For more information check out www.unite-drpm.com.

Gear Guide

Fox F-3 Boot

This new F3 boot from Fox features lateral I-beam support for increased ankle support, steel shank and air mesh liner to enhance breathability. It is also super comfortable and comes in cool colors.
Price range: $389
Where to find: *foxracing.ca*

Scorpion Skid Plate

Scorpion Racing is a B.C.-based company that designs and builds products to protect your bike from the elements. This lightweight aluminum skid plate protects your bike from nasty rocks, logs and other misfortunes.
Price Price range: $129.95
Where to find: *scorpionracing.ca*

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1-866-733-9968
*Based on double occupancy. Plus applicable taxes. Subject to change and availability. Stay Sunday to Thursday, Golf Monday to Thursday.

clubs

FRI. 10 P.M. DJ Warrior, one of the most influential players on the West Coast, spins hip hop, funk, reggae and dance classics. At Shine Nightclub, 364, Water St. Tix: $12. Info: *shinenightclub.com.*

FRI. 10 P.M. DJ Martin Ramond opens Timeline, a night of electro-house music. At Celebrities Night Club, 1022 Davie St. Tix: $15. Info: *myspace.com/dj_timeline.*

SAT. 9 P.M. Rockstar Saturdays, playing hip hop, Top 40 and house. AT AuBar, 674 Seymour St. Info: *aubarnightclub.com.*

SAT. 10 P.M. DJ Youngest in Charge (Toronto) headlines a special set followed by DJ Ahdon Clarke. At Plush Nightclub, 750 Pacific Blvd. Tix: $15. Info: (604) 669-8980.

SUN 10 P.M. Sunday Reggae one-year anniversary party with Retro Fit and Rico Uno. At Republic Nightclub, 958 Granville St. Info: *dhmbars.ca.*

comedy

FRI.-SAT. 8 AND 10:30 P.M. Vancouver Theatre Sports League presents incredible improv theatre. At the New Revue Stage on Granville Island. Tix: $10-$18. Info: 604-738-7013.

SUN 7:30 P.M. Chris Rock, the loud-mouth star of the Rush Hour trilogy presents his No Apologies Tour. At the Orpheum Theatre, at Smith and Seymour streets. In-

music

fo: *livenation.com.*

FRI 9 P.M. Sweatshop Union brings its unique style of conscious lyrics and highly musical hip hop beats to Vancouver. At Richard's on Richards, 1036 Richards St. Tix: $10. Info: *richardsonrichards.com.*

The bestselling albums on Amazon.ca

1. Mamma Mia! soundtrack, Various Artists; **2.** Viva La Vida, Coldplay (frontman Chris Martin, left); **3.** Two Men with the Blues, Willie Nelson and Wynton Marsalis; **4.** A Little Bit Longer, Jonas Brothers; **5.** Gold: Greatest Hits, ABBA. METRO

Music

more music

• There's more at metronews.ca

TOP 10
MOBILE DOWNLOADS

1 I Kissed A Girl — Katy Perry
2 Just Dance — Lady GaGa
3 Lollipop — Lil Wayne
4 A Milli — Lil Wayne
5 Dangerous — Kardinal Offishall
6 When I Grow Up — Pussycat Dolls
7 Crazy B*tch — Buckcherry
8 Calabria 2007 — Enur
9 Low — Flo Rida
10 we — Metro Station

rogers.com/musicstore
ROGERS

Music for a good cause

New Pornographers to curate Stanley Park Singing Exhibition

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARINA CHAVEZ

The New Pornographers are taking part in the inaugural Stanley Park Singing Exhibition. It takes place Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 at the Malkin Bowl.

Which is better, Stanley Park or Central Park?

It's a moot point, says Carl (A.C.) Newman, frontman for the New Pornographers, who are curating next weekend's Stanley Park Singing Exhibition, and Vancouverite turned New Yorker.

"It's unfair to compare parks," he said. "I live about five blocks from Prospect Park — it's like the Central Park of Brooklyn, and it has a great bandshell too … I've only been to Malkin Bowl once, to see Pete Seeger when I was a teenager, but it's great to go back to Vancouver to play."

Now settled in an apartment six blocks from where he hopes to sneak near a Bob Dylan concert a few days away, the self-professed homebody nonetheless misses his West Coast lifestyle. Long involved in building a musical community of like-minded rockers, Newman sees the exhibition as an opportunity to reconnect.

"We wanted to have a mellow show, and as big as Malkin Bowl is, it's not that big," he said. "It's great to finally do a couple shows that showcase all these bands and people who've been playing for so long and have finally kind of gotten somewhere."

The event includes performances by Pornographers Neko Case, Dan Bejar's Destroyer and Nardwuar's garage punks the Evaporators, who feature John Collins on bass. Former touring partners Stevie Jackson from Belle and Sebastian and Andrew Bird (from the Pornographers' first tour in 1991) join Vancouver prog-rockers Black Mountain, experimentalists Deerhoof, the 1900s and Visqueen. The show is also a fundraiser for the ALS Society of Canada and the Urban Native Youth Association.

Porno fans are in for another treat — especially those who missed the band's last Vancouver show, which featured both Bejar and Case. Newman explained the band only plays certain songs when those two are on board.

"Dan hardly ever plays with us, and Neko plays only about 50 per cent of the time," said Newman. "If we don't have Dan, we don't do Myriad Harbours — it's such a Dan song. Go Places and These are the Fables are attached to Neko, so if she's not there we don't do them. Luckily we have about 50 others."

OnTheBeat

Rob McMahon

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more online

• For details on the ALS Society of Canada, visit als.ca.
• For information on the Urban Native Youth Association, visit: unya.bc.ca.

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Air travel takes nosedive

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

alan@ongoinghistory.com

Air travel is a wretched experience that is getting more awful by the day. Just last week, my flight to Winnipeg — what used to be as routine as a bus ride downtown — is now a frustrating, demeaning and hideously expensive experience.

Between uncaring gate attendants (who refused to announce that the flight was going to be an hour late even though we could all see that the plane wasn't at the gate yet) and overzealous security types (they almost seized the homemade cabbage rolls mom had carefully packed in tinfoil in my carry-on because they can apparently be fashioned into an explosive device), I was ready to pull the chute on the whole trip.

A couple of things occurred to me during this ordeal:

• Whatever happened to the PA music heard on airplanes as passengers boarded? A number of airlines seemed to have stopped using it. Delta, on the other hand, has created a series of contemporary mixes that apparently subconsciously gets passengers settled in their seats faster.

• US Airways is yanking out their in-flight entertainment systems to save weight and fuel. Other airlines will be watching this with interest. The good news is that more planes are slowly becoming equipped with in-flight Internet access (at a price, of course), so there will be something to do.

• As of Oct. 1, Air Canada will no longer hand out free headsets for their entertainment systems, which is just as well because they're uncomfortable and sound awful. (Note to entrepreneurs: Far too many planes are outfitted with headset receptacles that require a double plug. There will soon be a big market for mini-plug-to-two-pronged adapters as more people choose to bring their own headphones and earbuds. You're welcome.)

• Who buys CDs at the airport? The Virgin stores in both Toronto and Winnipeg have a decent selection, but unless you're still travelling with a portable CD player or willing to listen through your laptop, CDs seem to be a little 20th century—if you know what I mean. (At least the prices have come down. I once saw Led Zeppelin IV selling at an airport store for $26.99.)

• Speaking of shopping, who would buy the hardcore porn magazines they sell at the airport? Is anyone actually going to crack one open during the flight? As if we need something else to make flying even more uncomfortable . . .

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read the daily Music Geek blog at ongoinghistory.com

Glitter returns to Thailand

Disgraced glam rocker Gary Glitter returned to Bangkok yesterday after Hong Kong barred him from entering following his release from three years' prison in Vietnam for child sex abuse. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Internet users fear iPod tunes blocked in China

The downloading of music for iPod players has hit a mysterious glitch in China, stumping scores of users and raising fears the government has blocked Apple's iTunes site over pro-Tibet lyrics, analysts said yesterday.

Since Monday, more than 60 people have posted messages in an Apple Inc discussion forum complaining that they could not download songs for use on Apple's iPods.

Their complaints follow the release of The Art of Peace Foundation's new album Songs for Tibet, a compilation of tunes about the rights of ethnic Tibetans in China's mountainous southwest.

Tibet, which Communist troops entered in 1950, suffered violent rioting in March, which led to anti-government demonstrations across Tibetan areas of China, deeply embarrassing Beijing just months before the Olympic Games.

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, accused Chinese troops of opening fire on protesters in eastern Tibet on Aug. 18. REUTERS

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Shetty wishes Goody well

Indian actress Shilpa Shetty, left, said she wished Jade Goody, far left, well after the star was diagnosed with cervical cancer, BBC news online reports. It comes 18 months after Goody was accused of racism towards Shetty on the UK's Celebrity Big Brother. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TV

According to the New York Post, last Sunday's Mad Men episode saw ratings return to last season's average of around 1.1 million.

Few new fans for Mad Men

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

MAD LOVE: AMC spent a fabled fortune in promotion leading up to the premiere of the second season of Mad Men just over a month ago, but it doesn't seem to be paying off in the numbers — according to a story in the New York Post this week, last Sunday's episode saw rating return to last season's average of around 1.1 million. That's a loss of a million viewers since the show's heavily hyped return to the airwaves, with a "season-low 514,000 viewers among persons 18-49," according to Nielsen.

Which means that Mad Men's core viewership is sticking with the show, though few new fans have been made — or most of them are, like me, watching the thing on TiVo days after the show airs. Not good news for AMC, which makes me think I should be cherishing my favourite show on the air while it lasts. I'm not sure what these erstwhile new viewers were expecting, but I haven't been at all disappointed with the four episodes of Mad Men so far. Far from it — Matthew Weiner and his cast and crew have exceeded my expectations, by a long shot.

I haven't been at all disappointed with the four episodes of Mad Men so far.

While it was clear from the first episode that Mad Men was going to be a workplace drama, it's delivered on more than that. The anguished intrigues in the Sterling Cooper offices are still driving the show, but its forays into the personal lives of the employees and their families are threatening to shift the focus — not that I'm complaining.

Last Sunday's show crammed in a lot of goings-on for a series that's reputedly "slow moving," including several indelible glimpses into the family life of Jon Hamm's Don Draper. From a frisky prelude to coitus interrupted by the kids to the pathological misbehaviour of the youngest, Bobby and the precociousness of his sister Sally, the episode provoked many winces of recognition from anyone once or currently in the business of raising a family. (And remember — all appearances to the contrary, Mad Men isn't really about the early '60s as much as it's about our own lives, today, refracted through that idealized past).

The richest moment was the giddy conclusion to a family Saturday together, a moment shattered when Bobby breaks his parents' bed and Don and Betty lose their temper before a chagrined realization that they've forgotten to feed their kids. Threading through it all was the tension between Don and Betty on disciplining their children.

I'm hoping that Weiner isn't going to take the awkward friendship between Peggy (Elizabeth Moss) and an eager young priest played by Colin Hanks to the same predictable place such relationships inevitably go, but he's doing a fantastic job of recapturing the fragile, sometimes painful dignity of working class urban life just before the cultural cataclysm of the '60s.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

FRIDAY

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	(3:00) XXIX Summer Olympics (CC)				XXIX Summer Olympics (Live) (CC)				
	255	358	6 CH	E News	The Insider	Heath Ledger: THS		Dr. 90210 (CC)		20/20 "Babyland" (N) (CC)		News (CC)
	250	321	9 CTV	TMZ (N) (CC)	Hollywood	Greek (CC)		Greek "Liquid Courage" (N)		Without a Trace (CC)		News (N)
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Collateral ★★★ (2004, Suspense) Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx.				Swingtown (N) (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	Friends (CC)	Jeff Ltd.	Grand Star	Cable Beach (2004) Chris Kramer, Karin Konoval. (CC) (DVS)				News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Reaper "Charged" (CC)		Stargate SG-1 New threat.		The Collector Eastern Europe.		Reviews
	-	-	14 CW	'70s Show	'70s Show	WWE Friday Night SmackDown! (N) (CC)				Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	NFL Preseason Football		KIRO News Special (N) (CC)		Total Recall ★★★ (1990) Arnold Schwarzenegger.				News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Olympic Zone	XXIX Summer Olympics (Same-day Tape) (CC)						
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Collateral ★★★ (2004, Suspense) Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx.				20/20 "Babyland" (N) (CC)		News (N)
	290	382	23 FOX	Two-Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		News (N)	IQ Weekly	Family Guy
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: the fifth estate		National
	500	500	66 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet	MLB Baseball Oakland Athletics at Seattle Mariners. (Joined in Progress) (Live)					Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NASCAR Race	CFL Football Calgary Stampeders at BC Lions. From BC Place Stadium in Vancouver. (CC)						SportsCentre	SportsCentre
family	552	543	25 YTV	New York Minute ★★ (2004, Comedy) Ashley Olsen. (CC)				The Next Star (CC)		Falcon Beach "Wake Jam"		15/Love
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Tom & Jerry	Tom and Jerry	6teen (CC)	Total Drama	Futurama	Ghost World ★★★ (2001) Thora Birch. (CC)		
	268	354	8 KNO	Emily of New Moon (CC)		The Royal "Starting Over"		Peking to Paris (CC)		Private Life of a Masterpiece		Preventive
variety	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Dedicated "Paul Brandt"		Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Ed (CC)
	615	520	31 A&E	The Cleaner (CC)		Criminal Minds "Poison"		CSI: Miami "Backstabbers"		CSI: Miami "Internal Affairs"		The Cleaner
	521	560	34 TLC	Who Are You Wearing?		What Not to Wear (CC)		What Not to Wear "Glenda"		Who Are You Wearing?		What Not
	616	522	33 SHO	ReGenesis "Spare Parts"		Cold Squad (CC)		Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Webdreams	Sin Cities
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) The Wedding Date ★★		Funniest Commercials: 2007		Sex and-City	Sex and-City	(9:55) While You Were Sleeping ★★★ (1995)		
	603	561	52 FN	Diner, Drive-In	Road Tasted	Dinner	Glutton	Iron Chef America (CC)		Tasty Travels	Food Safari	Diner, Drive-In
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) Over the Hedge ★★★		We Own the Night ★★ (2007) Joaquin Phoenix. Premiere.				No Country for Old Men ★★★ (2007)		
	581	566	161 MTV	The Hills	Hills	MTV Shuffle (CC)		Making the Band 4 (CC)		The Hills	After	Made (CC)

8/22/08

SATURDAY

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	(3:00) XXIX Summer Olympics (Live) (CC)				XXIX Summer Olympics (Live) (CC)				
	255	358	6 CH	E News	Mysteries	Still Small Voices (2007, Suspense) Catherine Bell. (CC) (DVS)				Inside Hollywood (CC)		Guy Stuff
	250	321	9 CTV	W-FIVE-Music Rising		Black Widower (2006) Kelly McGillis, David Lipper. (CC) (DVS)				Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	News (N)
	252	336	11 GTV	Andromeda (CC)		Largo Winch (CC)		Andromeda Magog onslaught.		renegade	renegade	News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	New Canoe	Island Week	Kool Countdown (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		Eli Stone "Soul Free" (CC)		At the Movies
	253	359	13 CITY	Stargate Atlantis (CC)		Murdoch Mysteries (CC)		Treed Murray ★★ (2001) David Hewlett, Cle Bennett. (CC)				Role
	-	-	14 CW	CSI: Miami "Death Eminent"		King	King	Underground	Underground	CSI: Miami (CC)		Cold Case
	289	381	15 CBS	NFL Preseason Football		KIRO News	Transition	KIRO 7 Special		Entertainment Tonight (N)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	(6:30) XXIX Summer Olympics (Same-day Tape) (CC)								News (N)
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Madagascar ★★★ (2005) Voices of Ben Stiller. (CC)				Eli Stone "Soul Free" (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops (CC)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News (N)	Scrubs (CC)	MADtv (CC)
news	502	390	26 NW	How to Stop a Hurricane		Sat. Report	Our World	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	How to Stop a Hurricane		Sat. Report
	500	500	66 CNN	Newsroom		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		CNN Saturday Night		
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball Oakland Athletics at Seattle Mariners. From Safeco Field in Seattle. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Poker
	400	400	30 TSN	NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup -- Sharpie 500.			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		NASCAR Now (N) (CC)		Tysons Hits	Summer Olym.
family	552	543	25 YTV	Storm Hawks	Storm Hawks	Avatar	Avatar	Avatar	Avatar	Storm Hawks	Storm Hawks	Shadow
	555	545	50 TEL	Chaotic	Johnny Test	Chop Socky	6teen (CC)	Total Drama	Futurama	Chicken	Rick & Steve	Tripping-Rift
	268	354	8 KNO	National Geographic (CC)		Heartbeat "Out of Africa"		Midsomer Murders "The Green Man" (CC)				Canterbury
variety	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Grand Ole Opry Live		Reba (CC)	Reba "Issues"	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Lorenzo's Oil
	615	520	31 A&E	(5:00) Open Range ★★★		The Sopranos "Cold Stones"		Open Range ★★★ (2003, Western) Robert Duvall, Kevin Costner. (CC)				
	521	560	34 TLC	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Flip House	Hope-Home	The Real Estate Pros (CC)		Holmes on Homes (CC)		Making Home
	616	522	33 SHO	(6:00) Anna's Storm (2007)		The One That Got Away (2008, Drama) Kelli Williams. (CC)				Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	Trailer Park
	294	650	47 TBS	What Women	(:45) A Guy Thing ★ (2003) Jason Lee, Julia Stiles. (CC)					(:45) Excess Baggage ★ (1997) Alicia Silverstone. (CC)		
	603	561	52 FN	Top Chef "Wedding Wars"		Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Iron Chef America (CC)		Top Chef "Wedding Wars"		Secret Life of
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) Blonde Ambition ★		The Mist ★★★ (2007, Horror) Thomas Jane. Premiere.				(:15) Shoot 'Em Up ★★ (2007) Clive Owen.		
	581	566	161 MTV	Canada's Next Top Model		Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	MTV Shuffle (CC)		MTV Live	Second Half	After

8/23/08

SUNDAY

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	(3:00) XXIX Summer Olympics		Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking (2004)				CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		News (N)
	255	358	6 CH	Instant Beauty Pageant (CC)		Extreme Makeover: Home		Extreme Makeover: Home		The Soup	E News	News (N)
	250	321	9 CTV	Instant Star	Samantha	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Million Dollar Password (CC)		Cold Case "8:03 AM" (CC)		News (N)
	252	336	11 GTV	renegade	King of Hill	Big Brother 10 (N) (CC)		Family Guy	American Dad	Family Guy	The Simpsons	News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Funniest Home Videos		Desperate Housewives (CC)		Sarah Connor Chronicles		Mad Men "The New Girl" (N)		ideaCity
	253	359	13 CITY	Never Been Kissed ★★ (1999) Drew Barrymore.				Once Upon a Time in Mexico ★★ (2003) Antonio Banderas.				Role
	-	-	14 CW	One Tree Hill "" (CC)		Hates Chris	Aliens	The Game	Girlfriends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Without Trace
	289	381	15 CBS	60 Minutes (CC)		Big Brother 10 (N) (CC)		Million Dollar Password (CC)		Cold Case "8:03 AM" (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	XXIX Summer Olympics From Beijing. (Same-day Tape) (CC)								News (N)
	288	380	21 ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23 FOX	'Til Death	'Til Death	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Sarah Connor Chronicles		News (N)	Q It Up Sports	Law/Ord SVU
news	502	390	26 NW	XXIX Summer Olympics From Beijing. (CC)				CBC News: Sunday Night		XXIX Summer Olympics From Beijing. (CC)		
	500	500	66 CNN	Newsroom		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Investigations
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball: Teams TBA		Sportsnet Connected		The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected		Jays
	400	400	30 TSN	(3:30) XXIX Summer Olympics		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		IndyCar Racing Indy Grand Prix of Sonoma County. (CC)				SportsCentre
family	552	543	25 YTV	(6:00) Racing Stripes ★★ (2005) (CC)			Prank Patrol	The Next Star (CC)		Falcon Beach (CC)		Falcon Beach
	555	545	50 TEL	Total Drama	Total Drama	Fred's Head	6teen (CC)	Total Drama	Futurama	Chicken	Rick & Steve	Tripping-Rift
	268	354	8 KNO	When Animals Attract		Rosemary and Thyme (CC)		New Tricks (CC)		Canterbury Tales (CC)		Last Detective
variety	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Take Me Home: The John Denver Story ★★ (2000)				Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Take Me
	615	520	31 A&E	Gene Simmons Family Jewels	Charity roast.		Simmons	Simmons	Simmons	Simmons	Simmons	Simmons
	521	560	34 TLC	A Life Half Full (CC)		My Shocking Story (CC)		World's Tallest Woman (CC)		A Life Half Full (CC)		Detectives
	616	522	33 SHO	Her Sister's Keeper (2006, Suspense) Dahlia Salem. (CC)				Trailer Park	Rent-A-Goalie	Silent Hill ★★ (2006, Horror) Radha Mitchell.		
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:45) My Big Fat Greek Wedding ★★★ (CC)		(:45) The Perfect Man ★★ (2005) Hilary Duff. (CC)					(:45) A Very Brady Sequel	
	603	561	52 FN	Jamie	Nigella	Road Grill	Grill	Iron Chef America (CC)		Jamie	Grill	Boy Grill
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) The Reef (2006) (CC)		Generation Kill (CC)		(:10) The Invasion ★★ (2007) Nicole Kidman. (CC)				Gener
	581	566	161 MTV	Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	MTV Shuffle

8/24/08

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Passionate reminder

Tickets for Passions 2008 in benefit of The Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation are still available. Enjoy fabulous food from Vancouver's top chefs (including Boneta, Chambar and Diva at the Met) paired with Yellow Tail wines. $200 per person. Visit *drpetercentre.ca*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Urban Foodie

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Decent food but view is better

ANYA LEVYKH
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Despite being a long-time Main Street resident, I've yet to partake of the casual comfort at Crave.

Thus, I took the recent opening of the second location in West Vancouver as the perfect opportunity to rectify the situation. We started with some popcorn shrimp ($10), a healthy-sized appetizer of hand-peeled crustaceans, lightly coated in tempura batter and served with a creamy chile sauce. This was a nice intro and went down very well. A large deep-fried ahi tuna roll ($11) was less successful. While the fish was fresh and perfectly rare inside, the formula lacked a catalyst and just fizzled on the buds. A little more heat would have been appreciated. Some short rib poutine ($10) made us sit up and pay attention. A large mound of well-braised beef covered the very good hand-cut fries. There wasn't nearly enough of the parmesan cheese for my taste, but the side of foie gras mayo ($2) made a nice dip, not only for the fries, but for the shrimp as well. A cobb salad with buttermilk fried chicken ($13) just didn't harmonize very well. The individual ingredients were great, but the overall effect was less-than-stellar. Less dressing, perhaps? Oh well, it's a pretty view ...

On the web

- Read the full article online at *metronews.ca/Vancouver/comment*.
- Chew more on Anya's blog at *metronews.typepad.com/urbanfoodie*.

ANYA LEVYKH/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Beef short rib poutine with parmesan and cilantro.

A chill, distilled drink that flies?

Named Vodka of the Year by both Food & Wine and Wine & Spirits magazines, Hangar One ain't no fly-by operation. These infused vodkas use rare and expensive fruits and flowers, have no additives and go through two distillations in small Alsatian pot stills before being brought to final proof and filtered. There is also straight vodka distilled from Viognier wine and blended with wheat vodka for a soft and delicate finish. Straight $59.99, Buddha's Hand Citron $64.99, both at BCLS.

Dining out

WINESTOCK
On August 30, Morning Bay Vineyard on Pender Island presents the 3rd Annual Winestock 2008. Hear bands like The Tragically Hip and Grapes of Wrath, plus enjoy great wine and food at Canada's only oceanfront vineyard. $25 per person, $50 per family, in advance. Free camping. Visit *morningbay.ca*.

FEAST OF FIELDS
Also on August 30, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sea-to-Sky Feast of Fields, the gourmet wandering picnic celebrating local food producers, takes place at Whistler's Rebagliati Park. Features top B.C. chefs, vintners, brewers, farmers and food artisans. $80 per person. Visit *farmfolkcityfolk.ca*.

In brief

FUEL RESTAURANT'S Tom Doughty, Robert Belcham and Tim Pittmann will be opening a new Italian joint, apparently called Campagnolo, at 1022 Main St. by Christmas.

THE IRISH HEATHER in Gastown has officially moved into its new location at 212 Carrall. Chef Colleen McLean's new take on gastro-pub fare should make for an exciting menu. METRO VANCOUVER

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Medley's Restaurant

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Medley's Restaurant is a popular spot with a friendly, casual atmosphere. Favourite dishes at Medley's Restaurant include pizza, Medley's clubhouse sandwich and daily features from our award-winning chef. A Hearty Best-4-breakfast buffet is served everyday starting at 6:30AM. Don't forget that children under the age of 12 eat free when accompanied by an adult.

Medley's Bistro Bar

A quiet spot right off the lobby - perfect for a get together. The Bar features a wide selection of wine, beer and scotch, as well as lighter fare such as a classic Caesar salad and sweet and spicy chicken wings.

Featured Menu Items

Medley's Cobb Salad	$12.95
Yakisoba Noddle Stir-fry	$13.55
Linguine Marsala	$13.95
Thai Red Curry	$13.95

Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown
604.684.2151 | hivancouverdowntown.com

Urban Eats

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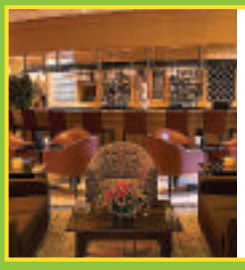
zin-restaurant.com



Medley's Restaurant & Lounge
Join us for a quick Lunch or All-You-Can-Eat Buffet. After work, have a drink and relax in the lounge.
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docksidebrewing.com

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604.687.1354
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Harmon is pregnant

Actress Angie Harmon has confirmed she's pregnant just two weeks after her husband denied initial reports. Football star Jason Sehorn shot down the rumours they were expecting a third child. But now a representative for the pair has confirmed Harmon is pregnant. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Ifans spirals out of control at birthday

PARTY Rhys Ifans ruined his new girlfriend's birthday party earlier this week.

The hellraising actor was celebrating Kimberly Stewart turning 29 at a London club when he spotted a fellow reveller getting close to his lover.

Rhys grabbed the man, thought to be one of his friends, in a headlock and hurled abuse at him.

He screamed: "F–k off. Don't touch my bird! Let's take this outside, you think you're a big man?"

After security broke up the fight, the Notting Hill star — who is also the frontman of Welsh rock outfit The Peth — fell into a table and sent glasses smashing on the floor.

Ifans — who split from actress Sienna Miller earlier this year — was seen with a small moustache drawn on his upper lip and said he was a "big fan of Hitler."

He also simulated sex on a friend who had fallen over on the dance floor.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Clooney buys fan a car

CRASH George Clooney bought a female fan a new car after damaging her vehicle in an accident.

The Oceans Eleven star was driving in Pennabilli, Italy when he shunted an unnamed woman's car from behind.

Clooney accepted the blame for the incident — and made the generous gesture of giving her a brand new car.

When the woman went to collect her vehicle from the repair shop, she discovered the movie star had bought her a new replica of her Lancia Ypsilon model.

And he had even left her a note of apology on the windscreen, saying: "I'm so sorry. Hope you'll forgive me. George Clooney."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Allen won't say no to drugs

BAD PERSON Lily Allen doesn't know if she will stop taking drugs. The Smile singer, who attempted to punch a passer-by after leaving a London nightspot this week, admits she isn't a "good person" when she is under the influence of illegal substances but still can't bring herself to quit.

She told Paper magazine: "I'm not going to say I'm never going to do drugs again. I just know I'm not a good person on drugs."

However, she insists she did stop using recreational drugs after she discovered she was pregnant last November. Lily, who suffered a miscarriage in January, says she vowed to clean up her life for the sake of her unborn child.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Cyber love for Gomez and Jonas?

TEXT Selena Gomez and boyfriend Nick Jonas have taken their love online. The teens can't stop sending each other saucy e-mails and texts since hooking up earlier this summer — and while the e-mails aren't X-rated, they drip with innuendo. "I love your mouth and I love your smile. It totally melts me," Nick, 15, wrote to Selena, 16.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Driver cited in LaBeouf crash

RUNNING A RED The other driver involved in actor Shia LaBeouf's recent car crash has been cited for running a red light and causing the accident which put the Transformers star in hospital with a smashed hand. The movie star's truck flipped twice after LaBeouf collided with 21-year-old Simon Herbert's vehicle in Hollywood on July 27. LaBeouf has since undergone hand surgery.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Horses made Bale's career

ACTING Batman star Christian Bale has put his successful acting career down to skills he learned riding horses. The actor is a keen horse rider and insists he has gained his most vital acting technique from the activity — confidence. He says, "I love horses. I've learned from them. Once you master a horse — but it also masters you — you gain more confidence in yourself."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

So **Nick Jonas** and **Selena Gomez** are together, and we know this because sources are leaking Nick's online correspondence. Incidentally, how do they know such gems as, "I love your mouth and I love your smile" aren't just lyrics he's workshopping? Why am I wasting a second of my life thinking about this?

At least we now have some closure on the debate that has been raging on the Internet for the past month, which effectively divided legions of 'tweens into pro-Selena and pro-**Miley Cyrus** camps. The question as to the authenticity of this relationship will no doubt be played out in true celebrity tradition through a series of denials, confirmations, contradictions, and hacked cellphone photo releases.

But the greater question to be considered involves Mickey Mouse as Matchmaker of Mammon. From **Frankie** and **Annette** to **Britney** and **Justin** through **Zac** and **Vanessa,** Disney entertainment properties have hooked up before, but never has the **Golden Child,** the perfect storm of profitability issued from said loins. Every time two people such as these youngsters get together, it is impossible not to consider that possibility, and the birth of such a child can be considered a sign of the Apocalypse, or just a reason to destroy your television.

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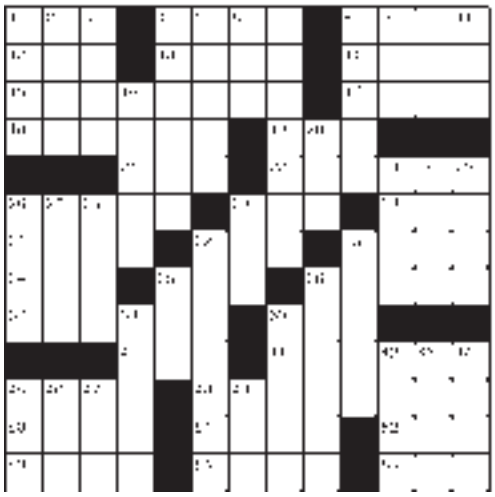
Not-so-smooth kiss

Jonathan Rhys Meyers was forced to halt filming on Match Point while kissing Scarlett Johansson — so that he could shave. She says, "Kissing him wasn't that bad, but he did have to stop and shave in the middle of a scene, even though he'd shaved that morning." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Take Five



Crossword down

1 Undergoes recession
2 Body powder
3 Neighborhood
4 Planned in detail, with "out"
5 Ouzo flavoring
6 Hostel
7 Miraculous
8 Landscape, e.g.
9 Orbit segment
10 "Go, team!"
11 Past
16 Sprite-like
20 Branch
23 Jacob's brother
24 Hit repeatedly
25 "Boola Boola" campus
26 G-men
27 Count counterpart
28 Verifiable
29 Tie up the phone
32 Horses
33 Puppy
35 Make up your mind
36 It's said to make you smile
38 Jed Clampett actor
39 Villainous look
42 Prevaricator
43 Concerning
44 Like quiche
45 — de deux
46 Matterhorn or Jungfrau
47 Floral garland
49 Zee preceder

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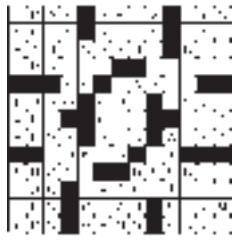
Crossword across

1 Timetable abbr.
4 Cripple
8 Poet Teasdale
12 Prohibit
13 King of Siam's friend
14 Mountaineer's foothold
15 Censor's job
17 Canyon comeback
18 Resells for a big profit
19 McShane or McKellen
21 Retainer
22 Gooseflesh inducing
26 Stinky
29 Sweet potato
30 Vast expanse
31 Have coming
32 Western st.
33 Humpty's perch
34 Actress Joanne
35 Erstwhile acorn
36 Paratrooper's need
37 Bashful friend?
39 The girl
40 A/C meas.
41 "South Pacific" heroine
45 The gang
48 Comprehensive
50 Sheltered
51 Spuds' buds
52 S.A. nation
53 Rotate
54 Withered
55 Monterrey monarch

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Mistaken identity causes confusing events. A sanitary problem ruins a good first impression. A fairy tale comes true.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A bad situation can't last forever. A handy man avoids work due to exhaustion. A friendly enemy needs your support.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You can make progress in a love affair. Tensions at work will dwindle. Someone's dreadful deeds will raise your spirits.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A talkative neighbour tries to pull a fast one. A woman goes for the throat in business. A joker will lose hope after making an unbelievable demand.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Mechanical problems will slow you down. Someone's plans are a sensitive issue. A shadowy man should be avoided.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Your money holds the interest of a relative. Play it safe for the best outcome. An upset jerk has serious emotional problems.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Resistance is weakening but don't give in to your sweet tooth. You'll be asked to go out on the town. Something is causing emotional turmoil.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24- NOV 22
An unethical person is sent off after being unfair. A sneering creep mutters under his breath. A relative makes a life-altering decision.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23- DEC 21
Don't be surprised when someone is late again. People won't hear you speaking the truth. Romantic events will come to a climax.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
A hero will be the first to pay for treats. A wimpy buddy wants to look you up. Don't be scared when a strange event occurs.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You'll jump for joy when a wish is granted. A man is on your side in an argument. A shouting person will make you smile.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MAR 20
You'll discover a solution to a pesky problem. Don't show disdain for an untidy appearance. A buddy gives you cause for concern.

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Sudoku

2			8		3			
3	5						9	6
	4			7		8		
	9		1	2				7
		2				6		
1				6	8		5	
		5		3			7	
8	2						6	1
			6		4			2

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

5	9	6	4	1	3	2	7	8
1	8	4	6	2	7	5	9	3
7	2	3	9	5	8	6	1	4
8	1	2	5	7	9	4	3	6
6	7	5	2	3	4	1	8	9
4	3	9	8	6	1	7	2	5
2	4	8	1	9	6	3	5	7
9	5	7	3	4	2	8	6	1
3	6	1	7	8	5	9	4	2

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising

more games metronews.ca

Vancouver weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Variable. 18°	Partly clear. Low 15°	Cloudy. 20°/15°	Rain. 100% 18°/14°	Variable. 17°/12°

Temperature
Normals
High: 21.4°
Low: 12.6°

Records
High: 29.4°/1956
Low: 8.3°/1938

Sunrise: 6:15 a.m.
Sunset: 8:14 p.m.
Moonset: 1:38 p.m.
Moonrise: 10:14 p.m.

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